

600 words

Rutgers students say remote learning is not helping them learn

By Ezra Yun

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J., April 24 – Rutgers junior Eugene Park was in an online class when his cousin texted him asking if he wanted to play a game together.

“Any other circumstance, I would’ve said no.” said the 21-year-old. “But I wasn’t retaining anything from class and attendance isn’t even mandatory.”

The English major said that remote learning was fine for short-term, but it became harder to concentrate and study at home.

“It’s distracting to be at home, and I don’t have my own space.” Park said. “I also don’t feel the same pressure of being at school anymore and I just feel lazy.”

Many students, like Park, miss being on campus and say that remote learning makes it easier to be distracted and unmotivated.

A journalism class conducted a survey to Rutgers students from April 3-10 on whether they preferred being on campus or remote learning.

Of the 125 students surveyed, 30% were commuters, 29% lived off campus and 41% lived on campus.

Emily Yoon, part of the group who lives on campus, said being on campus has so much more to offer than remote learning.

“There’s more than just classes, there’s people, opportunities, places,” said the Spanish major. “and you just feel engaged on campus.”

The sophomore said there are many factors at home that make it difficult to study.

“The study routine and space I established at school is gone.” Yoon continued. “Because I come home for breaks, I associate being at home [for remote learning] as another break.”

Kevin Shin is another sophomore who says it’s stressful to be at home.

“Home isn’t good for the body mentally,” said the math major. “it doesn’t feel right and there’s something about physically going to class and seeing other students studying alongside you that isn’t felt at home.”

Shin also said that it was hard to reach to his professors in his classes.

“My classes are a lot of prerecorded lessons, so they are not as interactive as they were on campus and I’m left trying to search up my questions online because I get confused,” Shin added.

Shin also noted that it’s hard to get a response from professors because they have so many students to answer to.

For some students, it’s impossible to do certain assignments through online teaching.

Jael Bae is a third-year majoring in graphic design, and she says that art classes aren’t meant to be taken online at all.

“We have studio classes that are up to six hours long,” said Bae. “and so, a lot of things have been compromised through remote learning like having no access to the Art Building and limited access to materials and professor critiques.”

Bae added that she’s worried how this will affect her portfolio as she becomes a senior next year.

“I need to submit my portfolio for job applications,” said Bae. “and it’s been hard to make good pieces currently.”

Seventy-four percent of students said they preferred being on campus.

David Kim is part of the 26% of students who say they have been enjoying remote learning.

Kim is a senior planning to graduate in information technology and says that remote learning allows him to learn at his own pace.

“Because of my own complex schedule, it’s not always possible to work by specific benchmarks that the instructor makes,” Kim said.

Kim said that he has more leisure to create a better work schedule for himself with online teaching.

Rutgers started remote learning on April 3, and it has affected over 50,000 students.